

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05884 300416Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8607

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 5884

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: MYONGDONG TRIAL - EVE OF TWELFTH SESSION

REF: SEOUL 5741

1. COURT ANNOUNCED THAT DEFENSE WITNESSES CHO TONG-PIL AND CHU SOK-KYUN WHO HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO APPEAR AT JULY 31 SESSION OF MYONGDONG TRIAL HAVE DECLINED TO TESTIFY. IN VIEW THEIR RELUCTANCE TO APPEAR, DEFENSE ATTORNEYS REPORTEDLY WITHDREW THEM FORMALLY FROM LIST OF DEFENSE PROPOSED WITNESSES. DEFENSE WILL APPARENTLY HAVE NO WITNESSES AT JULY 31 SESSION.

2. ACCORDING TO SECRETARY OF DEFENDANT YUN PO-SUN, DEFENDANTS HAVE REQUESTED LAWYERS TO PROTEST COURT'S FAVORITISM TOWARD PROSECUTION IN ACCEPTING THREE OF FIVE PROSECUTION SPONSORED WITNESSES AND ONLY TWO OF SIXTEEN DEFENSE SPONSORED WITNESSES FOR JULY 31 SESSION AND RESULTING SITUATION IN WHICH SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE WITHOUT TESTIMONY OF ANY DEFENSE WITNESSES. DEFENDANTS HAVE ASKED THEIR ATTORNEYS TO WALK OUT OF SESSION AFTER MAKING PROTEST.

3. COMMENT: PROPOSED STRATEGY WILL GIVE JULY 31 SESSION MORE THAN USUAL INTEREST AND WILL BE IN LINE WITH RUMORED DESIRE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEFENSE TO STIR UP FLAGGING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC

INTEREST IN TRIAL.
STERN

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Message Attributes

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